

## Andrew Jackson to Rachel Donelson Jackson, April 12, 1824, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

**TO MRS. JACKSON.**

Washington, April 12, 1824.

*My Dear wife,* Your kind letter of the 24th ult, I have recd; I rejoice to learn that your health is good and your friends are attentive to you, and keep up your spirits. In my last I informed you that I had sent on George to take back our horses left on the road, so that when I left here for home, I would have nothing to detain me; and the horses and servants were a useless expence to us; one with us is sufficient. If the Ohio should keep up for Steam Boat Navigation; I shall go from here in the stage to Wheeling; and from thence to Louisville, and perhaps all the way to Nashville by water. I cannot as yet say when I will be able to leave here; I did hope that last week would have closed the debate upon the Tariff bill; but it is still under discussion, and untill this bill is passed on in the senate: and some others, I cannot leave here.

We have done nothing yet. I regret to see no national feeling in the majority of congress. every one appears solely to be ingrossed with the interest alone of his own section of Country—so long as this feeling predominates, it will be unfortunate for our nation. we ought as Legislatures to meet with national feelings, and our Legislation ought to be for the general good; and as far as practicable equity and Justice to all sections of our country. Was this course adopted, we would with harmonious feelings, of mutual concessions, soon get through all important questions, which agreeable to the present feeling; occasions so much useless debate, to the great injury of our country, the waste of our time; and the public mony.

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My Love, I hope to leave here in the early part of May. I am truly wearied with lounging here; doing nothing, but feeding on the public funds. we have really done nothing yet beneficial; and for nine weeks has the House of Representatives been engaged debating the Tariff, that could have been as well decided in two. The moment I can say with certainty, the day I can leave here, I will inform you. My health still continues to be as usual; my cough in the morning troublesome; but when we get warm weather; I trust, it will entirely leave me. give my compliments to all friends; to my Dear little Andrews and to Capt A. J. Donelson and believe me to be your affectionate Husband

P s. Mrs. Oneal and daughters request me to present you with their kind compliments and wishes.